



The Torch

Keeping the Promise

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Former Sen. Chuck Hagel speaks on POW/MIA day



DoD photo by Jessica Peirno

Former Senator Chuck Hagel gives a speech during National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pentagon on Sept. 21, 2012. The ceremony hosted former prisoners of war, family members, military service members and distinguished guests to honor all service members who were POWs or went missing in action during all conflicts. This year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on Sept. 20, 2013.

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities and traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year.

The day was recognized at the Pentagon in a ceremony to commemorate the sacrifices of American service members who were held as prisoners of war or went missing in action during past conflicts.

This ceremony was not only to commemorate the 83,000 Americans still missing, but to honor those who returned home and their families for each sacrifice made while their loved ones were away.

Several guest speakers recognized and honored those

service members for their bravery and sacrifices.

"We not only honor today but recognize and thank, our former POWs, their families, our MIAs and their families," said former Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Vietnam veteran and current Secretary of Defense Presidential nominee. "We are grateful. And you have given inspiration and guidance and grace to a nation."

Along with the guest speakers, and DoD personnel, former POWs and families of those still missing in action, were present to show their support for all service members from past and present conflicts.

The ceremony was held under clear blue skies on the Pentagon lawn and ended with a joint service fly-by with both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Family Updates

Updates for families with loved ones missing in action will be conducted on:

March 16 - Birmingham, Ala.

April 20 - Spokane, Wash.

June 13-14- Southeast Asia Annual Meeting, D.C.

July 13 - Salt Lake City, Utah

August 8-9-Korean/Cold War Annual Meeting, D.C.

September 7 - Denver, Colo.

To register or get more information, see our webpage: www.dtic.mil/dpmo

Please note that the dates for the **Korean/Cold War Annual Meeting** initially slated for April have moved to **Aug. 8-9** due to budget issues. As the date approaches and to maximize participation, we will provide you with more details. All of the dates mentioned above are subject to change and are tentative until Congress passes the budget bill. We understand the hardship this creates for families and we are working hard to find solutions.

DPMO digitizes all X-Files

As of January 2013, DPMO research and analysis team has finished digitizing more than 11,500 folders of World War II (WWII) and Korean War related documents known as the X-Files. These files totaled more than 6.7 terabytes of data. This data will be used by different government organizations that make up the Accounting Community.

Each document was scanned or transferred into the highest resolution possible to preserve its historic value. The files were also turned into word searchable PDFs, which were created, categorized and organized for easy use. This project started in June 2010, and took more than two years to complete. Digitizing each historical document for analysis, allows them to be used as cross reference material to help solve unaccounted-for cases.

POW/MIA Day in New York



Photo courtesy of New York Yankees

On Sept. 21, 2012, during National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the New York Yankees hosted military and civilian employees from the Accounting Community to recognize their efforts. The men and women from the Department of Defense (pictured above at home plate) represent approximately 600 people worldwide who are dedicated to the mission of finding our missing heroes and returning them home to their families.

Every year, the New York Yankees honor those men and women who became prisoners of war or missing in action while fighting to defend our freedom. The guest speaker at the Yankees game reflected on their heroism and will never forget the pain or suffering these service members and their families have endured.

Remains recoveries in Burma

In the spring of 2013, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) will conduct operations in Burma to search for information on service members who remain unaccounted-for from World War II. More than 700 Americans are unaccounted-for in Burma. Many of these losses were associated with U.S. air crews lost while flying over the Himalayas, known as "the Hump," during the war.

Korean War efforts continued

In fall of 2012, two DPMO analysts traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to coordinate with the South Korean government about accessing records related to U.S. losses in the Korean War. In December 2012, JPAC's Korean Field Element, along with DPMO researchers investigated two sites. In 2012, 40 Korean War service members were identified.



DPMO launched a Twitter account to help highlight the work of DPMO and the Accounting Community to account for more than 83,000 missing Americans from past conflicts.

Follow DPMO @DoDPowMIA

AFDIL continues to collect DNA family reference samples



Photo courtesy of Mark Russell, DPMO

Mr. Thomas M. McDonnell (right), receives a DNA swab from an AFDIL staff member during a Family Member Update. McDonnell is the son of Army Maj. John T. McDonnell, who went missing during the Vietnam War. Maj. McDonnell is unaccounted for and the DNA received from his son could help identify his remains once recovered. AFDIL supports the POW/MIA mission by helping identify the remains of those lost at war.

Since 1992, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has been working with the Department of Defense and the military services to collect maternal DNA. The DNA is collected for family reference samples from family members of unaccounted-for military service members whose remains have not

been recovered or identified from the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War, and World War II. The military Service Casualty Offices (SCO) work with AFDIL to locate family members of unaccounted-for service members to update their database.

These DNA samples are collected by AFDIL through a gentle cheek swab and are used to account for unaccounted-for service member from past conflicts. From November 2012 to January 2013, AFDIL received more than 350 family reference samples with 38 of those being collected at the most recent DPMO Family Member Update in San Diego.

DNA was used by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory in more than 85 percent of recent identifications. In order to maximize Accounting Community efforts, genealogists are still trying to locate families who have not provided a DNA reference. Since 1995, more than 14,000 references have been collected from Korean War families, which represent nearly 7,100 (88 percent) of more than 8,100 service members missing from the Korea. Last year was the second largest collection of family references by AFDIL in the past 20 years, with 2,333 references being received from family members from all conflicts.

JPAC Operations

From Oct. 1, 2012 through Sep. 30, 2013, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is scheduled to deploy approximately 90 investigation and recovery teams on 38 missions to 19 countries worldwide.

Nine missions will deploy in support of Vietnam War recovery operations, five will support Korean War recovery operations, and 24 recovery operation missions will support past conflict to include World War II. There are also recovery operations slated for Laos and India later this year. Also, later this year, JPAC will conduct underwater investigation and recovery missions in support of World War II and Vietnam War cases.

While JPAC is planning to conduct all these missions, due to unforeseen circumstances, these missions may change. JPAC, along with the entire Accounting Community, is actively engaged in locating the remains of all POW/MIA's from past war.

Recently accounted for

The following servicemen were recently accounted for and returned to their families for burial with full military honors:

WWII

Pvt. William Yawney, USA

Vietnam

Pvt. 1st Class James J. Jacques,
USMC
Capt. James M. Johnstone, USA
Col. Wendell R. Keller, USAF
Lt. Richard L. Laws, USN
Maj. James L. Whited, USA
Airman 1st Class Jerry M. Wall,
USAF

Korea

Cpl. Robert G. Archer, USA
Sgt. Stanley W. Bear, USA
Sgt. 1st Class Harold M. Brown,
USA
Pfc. Bobby L. Byars, USA
Pfc. Roosevelt Clark, USA

Pfc. Weldon A. Davis, USA
Lt. Col. Don C. Faith Jr., USA
Sgt. Ervin A. Fricke, USA
Pfc. Ernest V. Fuqua Jr., USA
Cpl. Edwin L. Galameau, USA
Pfc. James R. Hare, USA
Pfc. Arthur W. Hopfensperger,
USA
Cpl. Elmer C. Kidd, USA
Sgt. Bobby R. King, USA
Cpl. William C. Knight, USA
Pfc. James C. Mullins, USA
Pfc. Glenn S. Schoenmann, USA
Cpl. Robert W. Scott, USA
Master Sgt. Robert A. Stein,
USA
Sgt. Raymond B. Wellbrock,
USA
Sgt. Willard F. Williams, USA

To "Go Green" and reduce cost, DPMO is focusing on digital distribution of *The Torch* instead of hardcopy mailings. Please send your email address to: outreach.DPMO@osd.mil. For those who cannot access *The Torch* via email or online, we will continue to mail it to your address as resources permit.

SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE:

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office
2600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-2600



In November 2012, this chair was dedicated at the Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. by Rolling Thunder, to help bring awareness to all missing service-men who are unaccounted-for from America's past wars. Chairs like this one will remain empty to help educate the public of the sacrifice made by our military and their families. These soldiers will never be forgotten. Another POW/MIA chair was also dedicated at TD Garden, home of the Boston Bruins and Celtics and will be displayed in the upcoming weeks.

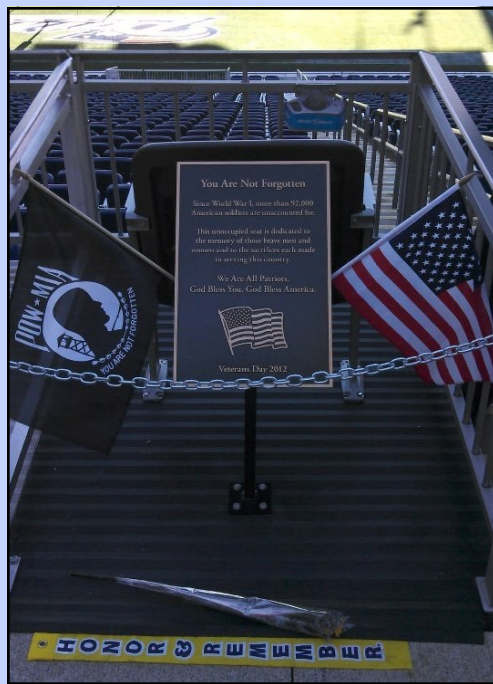


Photo courtesy of Joseph D'Entremont, Rolling Thunder MA1

For your information

Family members seeking more information about missing loved ones may call their respective Service Casualty Office:

U.S. Air Force
(800) 531-5501

U.S. Marine Corps
(800) 847-1597

U.S. Army
(800) 892-2490

U.S. Navy
(800) 443-9298

U.S. Department of State
(202) 647-5470

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